



U.S. Department of Justice

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For Immediate Release:

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EVENT: Guilty Plea

Defendant: James Roy Sylvester

SAGINAW AREA MAN CONVICTED ON DRUG CHARGES

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced that a jury that had deliberated approximately four hours returned guilty verdicts Wednesday, September 21, 2005, against James Roy Sylvester, Jr., 46, a Saginaw area resident, for various violations of federal drug and firearms laws. The 7-day trial was conducted before United States District Judge David M. Lawson in Bay City, Michigan.

Sylvester was found guilty of possessing 5 kilograms of cocaine, over 20 grams of crack cocaine, as well as OxyContin, Valium, Vicodin and codeine pills, all with the intent to distribute those drugs. According to the evidence, Sylvester traveled and caused others to travel to California in connection with his drug business. Sylvester also possessed firearms in connection with his drug offenses, and conspired with others to traffic in 5 kilograms or more of cocaine. The jury also found that Sylvester, a convicted felon, possessed firearms in violation of federal law.

Mr. Murphy stated, "This case is an excellent example of local, state and federal law enforcement agencies joining forces against armed drug traffickers. I commend the efforts all of the officers and agents who worked on this investigation."

The case was investigated by state and federal law enforcement agencies in Michigan, Nebraska and California, including Drug Enforcement Agency agents and task force officers in

all three states, officers employed by the Saginaw County Sheriff's Department, the Saginaw City Police Department, the Michigan State Police, the Bay City Police Department, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the Nebraska State Patrol, the Michigan State Police Forensic Laboratory and the DEA Laboratory in Chicago. Special assistance in the prosecution of the case was provided by the U.S. Marshal Service. The Saginaw DEA office coordinated the joint investigation of this case.

Sentencing of Mr. Sylvester was scheduled by Judge David M. Lawson for December 22, 2005 at 2:30 p.m. The sentence will be based on the nature of the offenses and the criminal background of the defendant.